assistance provided to the State from NCCF for the drought of 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are indicated below:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Central share released	Assistance from NCCF
2001-02	155.97	—
2002-03	163.77	123.51
2003-04	171.96	50.58

Agricultural growth

1597. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to develop on a large scale, post harvest management technologies in Agriculture to give a fillip to overall growth of the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what other measures are being considered for achieving and surfacing high agriculture growth.which, as per present estimate is likely to come down during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has, during the Xth Plan expanded the programmes of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Post Harvest Technology at 33 Centres all over the country, to develop technologies for reducing post harvest losses, add value to the agricultural produce and utilize by-products with a view to enhance farmers' income and rural employment, thereby, giving a fillip to the overall growth of the economy.

The project is aimed at:—

1. Adoption/development of need based technologies for reduction in post harvest losses of crops, livestock produce and fish;
2. Development of need based agro-processing centres;

3. Prototype production, commercialization and Transfer of Technology;

4. Training of growers, researchers, extension and industrial workers;

5. Environmental upgradation in processing industries and workers' safety.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a programme for supporting R & D in Post Harvest Technology in oilseeds, pulses, oilpalm and maize including the popularization and demonstration of the developed post harvest technologies.

(c) During the current year (2004-05),due to erratic monsoon there has been a certain degree of setback to Kharif production. An intensified Rabi campaign 2004-05 has been launched to culminate into successful production and attainment of annual targets. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has formulated a scheme for giving rewards to the States having outstanding performance during the Rabi season 2004-05.

Agri-Clinics

†1598. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the setting up of agri-clinics and following their directions may prove to be beneficial in order to develop the agriculture in the country and minimise the wastage of avoidable loss occurring thereto;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether this project is already in operation in many States of the country;

(d) if so, the States where this project is going on at present; and

(e) the measures proposed by Government to promote it?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.